

Filed for intro on 05/15/2000

HOUSE RESOLUTION 225
By Brown

A RESOLUTION to recognize the members of the Voices of Unity
In Praise Gospel Choir of the Chattanooga
School for the Arts and Sciences for their
dedication and persistence in their ten years of
service to God and their community.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize those individuals, who through their numerous talents and desire to spread God's redeeming message, have become role models for the state's youth; and

WHEREAS, the Voices of Unity In Praise Gospel Choir is an organization composed of such exemplary individuals, who through their own personal sacrifices and efforts represent youth who evidence the utmost probity and acumen; and

WHEREAS, the organization was formed upon the initiative of students of the Chattanooga School for the Arts and Sciences, and has been a student-led assemblage for the ten consecutive years of its existence; and

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WHEREAS, the members are dedicated to the message and ministry of the Gospel Choir and sacrifice their time to practice before school, after school, and even on their lunch breaks; and

WHEREAS, these young leaders forgo their Saturday mornings to return to the school for rehearsals at least twice monthly; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Anthony Jackson, of Chattanooga State, is this year's highly respected musician and volunteer director whose virtuous service prepares the 6th-12th graders for their ministry of music; and

WHEREAS, the faculty sponsor, Mrs. Annette T. Young, who also teaches French and African American History, is admired and valued by students and teachers alike; she has devoted her services to the choir for all but one of the past ten years; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Young has witnessed "the mighty work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of numerous participants" over the years; she feels that against all odds the Gospel Choir has "served an anointed purpose for God in a public school"; and

WHEREAS, this year, membership in the choir has experienced immense growth and, for some of the new members, the opportunity serves as their first occasion to be ministered to by a group of their own peers; and

WHEREAS, the diversity in the choir's repertoire reflects the cultural diversity of its members; numerous concerts in the last two years have included: The Urban League's "Doing the Right Thing" program at Warner Park in Chattanooga, the Family Festival at Miller Park in Chattanooga, the Conference of Families of Murder Victims at Grace Episcopal Church, the Opening Act for Nikki Giovanni at Central City Complex, and numerous other performances at area churches; and

WHEREAS, the student choir members are a great source of pride for the school and are also exceptional young role models; their accomplishments extend well beyond their choral involvement; and

WHEREAS, the members maintain good grade point averages and their extracurricular activities include such diverse activities as participating in traditional and non-traditional sports, chess club membership, High School Model U.N., and the school's Student Government Association; many students hold offices in these groups; and

WHEREAS, the choir has enjoyed the services of four Student Government Presidents, a Jefferson Scholar to the University of Virginia, where she later became the first Indian female President of the Student Government; a Bonner Scholar to DePauw University; and a former musician for the gospel choir at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville; and

WHEREAS, above all, 95% of the members have gone on to attend four-year colleges, and their successful matriculations have included several scholarship awards and degrees in Mathematics, Business Administration, English, Pre-Med, Computer Science, and Chemistry at distinguished schools over the country; and

WHEREAS, currently, each of the sixteen senior members has been accepted to his or her college of choice, and many are entering college with a praiseworthy 3.0 grade point average or higher; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable group of young people is actively involved in their community, and have helped build a playground in Ooltewah; have assisted the non-profit organization, Kids On the Block; have visited nursing homes; and have performed at the American Cancer Society gospel fest, which is aimed at raising awareness in the black community about the need for cancer screenings; and

WHEREAS, at a time when our nation's schools are experiencing horrific violence, the Voices of Unity In Praise Gospel Choir is to be commended and praised for their devout faith and ministry to uplift their fellow human beings; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the young people and sponsor of the Voices of Unity In Praise

Gospel Choir for meritorious service in lifting up the name and advancing the ministry of Jesus Christ; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, That we hereby commend the sponsor and the members of the Voices of Unity In Praise Gospel Choir of the Chattanooga School for the Arts and Sciences for their dedication and persistence in service to God and their community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.